Amendments of the Claims:

A detailed listing of all claims in the application is presented below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. All claims being currently amended are submitted with markings to indicate the changes that have been made relative to immediate prior version of the claims. The changes in any amended claim are being shown by strikethrough (for deleted matter) or underlined (for added matter).

1. (Currently Amended) A blade tensioner for imparting tension to a chain comprising:

a) a blade shoe comprising:

i) an arcuately shaped chain sliding face; and

ii) a plurality of solitary strip-shaped guide pieces upraised from a side edge portion of the chain sliding face having flat faces, wherein the guide pieces are located along the chain sliding face and the flat faces of the guide pieces come in contact with and guide the chain; and

b) at least one blade spring to apply a spring force to the blade shoe, the blade spring being in the shape of a leaf spring and disposed at an opposite side of the blade shoe from the chain sliding face.

2. (Currently Amended) The blade tensioner of claim 3~~1~~, wherein the blade shoe has a substantially U-shaped cross-section at each pair of ~~the~~ guide pieces.

3. (Currently Amended) The blade tensioner of claim 1, wherein a pair of guide pieces comprises a first solitary guide piece and a second solitary guide piece, wherein the first solitary guide piece is upraised from a right side edge portion of the chain sliding face and the second solitary guide piece is upraised from a left side edge portion of the chain sliding face directly opposite the first solitary guide piece~~each comprise two guide pieces disposed opposite to each other on a right side edge and a left side edge of the chain sliding face, respectively~~.

4. (Currently Amended) The blade tensioner of claim 1 wherein a location of the solitary guide pieces alternates between a right side edge portion and a left side edge portion along ~~the guide pieces are disposed alternately on a right side edge and a left side edge of~~ the chain sliding face.

5. (Currently Amended) The blade tensioner of claim 1, wherein the guide pieces ~~are located in at least three positions, wherein these positions~~ comprise:

a) a first solitary guide piece located at a contact starting position where the chain starts to contact the chain sliding face;

b) a second solitary guide piece located at a separation starting position where the chain starts to separate from the chain sliding face; and

c) a third solitary guide piece located at a central position along the chain sliding face.

6. (Original) The blade tensioner of claim 1, wherein the chain is a timing chain to drive an engine cam shaft.

7. (Original) The blade tensioner of claim 1, wherein the chain is a chain to drive an auxiliary of an engine.

8. (Original) The blade tensioner of claim 1, wherein the blade shoe has a substantially L-shaped cross-section at each of the guide pieces.

9. (New) A blade tensioner for imparting tension to a chain comprising:

a) a blade shoe comprising:

i) an arcuately shaped chain sliding face;

ii) a first plurality of solitary guide pieces upraised from a right side edge portion of the chain sliding face and having flat faces, wherein the first guide pieces are located along the chain sliding face and the flat faces of the first guide pieces come in contact with and guide the chain;

iii) a second plurality of solitary guide pieces upraised from a left side edge portion of the chain sliding face and having flat faces, wherein the second guide pieces are located along the chain sliding face and the flat faces of the second guide pieces come in contact with and guide the chain; and

b) at least one blade spring to apply a spring force to the blade shoe, the blade spring being in the shape of a leaf spring and disposed at an opposite side of the blade shoe from the chain sliding face.

10. (New) The blade tensioner of claim 9, wherein the first solitary guide pieces are located directly opposite the second solitary guide pieces along the chain sliding face such that one first solitary guide piece and one second solitary guide piece form a pair of guide pieces.

11. (New) The blade tensioner of claim 10, wherein the blade shoe has a substantially U-shaped cross-section at each pair of guide pieces.

12. (New) The blade tensioner of claim 1 wherein the first solitary guide pieces alternate with the second solitary guide pieces along a length of the chain sliding face.

13. (New) The blade tensioner of claim 9, wherein the chain is a timing chain to drive an engine cam shaft.

14. (New) The blade tensioner of claim 9, wherein the chain is a chain to drive an auxiliary of an engine.

15. (New) The blade tensioner of claim 9, wherein the blade shoe has a substantially L-shaped cross-section at each of the guide pieces.